

From: SqueegeeG@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 9:14am
Subject: Don't miss the big picture!

Dear Justice Department,

When considering the remedy against Microsoft, please consider just how difficult and expensive it was to bring this case to trial. America has a long history of powerful corporations, and of vigorous political debate, but this trial marked a change where the corporation had far greater resources than either the state or federal governments to litigate the case.

Concentrations of power, whether monopolistic or not, pose the greatest threats to our everyday freedom. To allow a monopolistic and powerful central enterprise like this one to continue is foolhardy. We will pay the price if you lack the courage to correct this aberration.

Recently I received a message when I launched Internet Explorer that something needed to be updated and that it would take 17 seconds. I said ok. Well, it took more than 17 seconds, and it wasn't a necessary update. It was some foolish little program that changed the cursor into a picture, and I could buy enhancements for it for some amount, 15.00, I think. A couple of days later I read about how popular this new gizmo was and that 93 million copies had been downloaded already! This Orwellian experience demonstrates what the future of computing will be where Microsoft dominates the desktop. It is monitoring my use, force feeding and falsely packaging its products, and exposing the most powerful asset of the modern age to all sorts of mayhem. Allowing this company to go forward with its everyday practices would make as sense as allowing bin Laden to buy an airlines. Continuous negotiation will not lead to practical changes. If you are afraid to bear your teeth, then the American people have no effective defense. Respectfully submitted,

Steve Consilvio

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